

Applicants respectfully submit that independent Claims 1 and 6, and therefore all of currently pending Claims 1 through 10 distinguish over Peters, whether considered by itself or in combination with other references.

In particular, Claim 1 recites the following features which are not found in Peters:

1. A sleeve is installed rotatably into the lock housing, with the closing cylinder inserted rotatably into the sleeve; and
2. A locking bolt is slidable with the lock housing to engage with a slotted opening of the sleeve “blocking rotation of the sleeve relative to the housing”.

Similarly, Claim 6 recites “a hollow cylindrical sleeve inserted rotatably within the housing”, as well as a closing cylinder “inserted rotatably within the sleeve”. In addition, Claim 6 also recites that the locking bolt is movable between “a first position in which rotation between the sleeve and housing is permitted, and a second position in which rotation between the sleeve and housing is blocked”. As noted, these features are neither taught nor suggested by Peters.

Rather, in Peters, a rotatable cylinder 14 is mounted within a fixed casing 16, which is supported on the vehicle body by a securing member 15, as indicated in Column 1, line 71 through Column 2, line 1. As best seen in Figure 2, a locking

member 20 provided on the cylinder is retractable by insertion of a properly bitted key 22 into the cylinder. (See Column 2, lines 6-9.) Rotation of the cylinder beyond the position indicated by the dash/dot depiction of the locking member 20 in Figure 2 is prevented by a blocking head portion 32 of a blocking member 30. So long as the blocking member 30 remains in the position shown in Figure 2, rotation of the cylinder 14 beyond this position is prevented.

As discussed in the specification at Column 2, lines 49-54, the cylinder 14 may be unlocked and rotated into a starting position in either of two ways. First, the key may be inserted into the cylinder, thereby retracting the locking member 20, or alternatively, the blocking member 30 may be retracted by way of a solenoid 38, so that it no longer prevents the rotation of the cylinder past the position indicated by the dash/dot depiction of the locking member 20 in Figure 2.

It is apparent from the foregoing brief description that the Peters reference does not teach or suggest the provision of a separate sleeve which is itself rotatable within the lock housing, with the cylinder being rotatable within the sleeve. Moreover, Peters also fails to include a locking bolt which blocks rotation of the sleeve relative to the housing, as referred to above. Accordingly, and in view of its fundamentally different structure and manner of operation, the

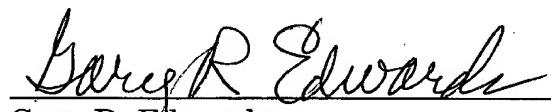
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Peters reference neither anticipates nor renders obvious either of independent Claims 1 and 6, or the remaining claims depending therefrom.

If there are any questions regarding this amendment or the application in general, a telephone call to the undersigned would be appreciated since this should expedite the prosecution of the application for all concerned.

If necessary to effect a timely response, this paper should be considered as a petition for an Extension of Time sufficient to effect a timely response, and please charge any deficiency in fees or credit any overpayments to Deposit Account No. 05-1323 (Docket #951/49531).

Respectfully submitted,

  
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